

BREEDING

Pedigree Analysis



ANNE PETERS
pedgoddess@yahoo.com

Wardelle and Wardoura

When Wardelle splashed home first in the \$50,000 Pink Ribbon Stakes Sept. 21 at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, she added another stakes winner to an already remarkable female family. Bred in Virginia by Audley Farm, she is also the product of four generations of breeding by Elliot Alexander, who nurtured this family's rise from a foul-tempered gift filly who couldn't hit the board to the winner's circle at the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

The gift filly was Wardoura, whom Alexander received as a birthday present in the mid-1960s, when she was 4 years old and he 37. One day Alexander's trainer called, saying he wanted Wardoura out of his barn because she was "mean, nasty, and untrainable." She couldn't win but made a good run to finish fourth once before an injury prompted a broodmare career.

Alexander received some encouragement from a farm manager who pointed out Wardoura owned an interesting pedigree, being by War Jeep out of the imported mare Badoura, who was herself inbred, 3x4 to the great racemare Pretty Polly. Alexander is convinced this is the source of the greatness that runs through this family and who's to argue, because from Wardoura he created a little dynasty of good fillies.

Wardoura produced four foals, all winners, including Fleet Grounded, by Grounded II, who won \$209,863 over nine years and 117 starts. Alexander's buddy, Willie Shoemaker, liked the colt and rode him to many of his wins, and it was "the Shoe" who recommended Wardoura be bred to Fleet Discovery, a son of Fleet Nasrullah he rode with success. The result was Fleet Polly, a two-time winner Alexander kept as a broodmare.

Fleet Polly produced 10 foals, six winners, and the best of her offspring were all bred on the same pattern. Alexander decided the best stallion in California at the time was Don B., another son of Fleet Nasrullah. It did not concern him that Fleet Polly's sire Fleet Discovery was also by Fleet Nasrullah, a powder keg of a horse with brilliant speed but that troublesome Nasrullah temperament.



COURTESY OF ELLIOT ALEXANDER

Wardoura

Alexander sent Fleet Polly to Don B. four times, getting three winners, two stakes horses, and one remarkable broodmare, all inbred 2x3 to Fleet Nasrullah. The Don B.—Fleet Polly cross produced Truffles, a multiple stakes-winning filly and graded stakes-placed earner of \$212,300; the colt Don B. Blue, graded stakes-placed winner of \$174,790; and an unraced filly named Lady Argyle.

Lady Argyle's connections sent her on a trip to Kentucky, and her second foal, by Green Dancer, was Canon Can, winner of the 1997 Great North Eastern Railway Doncaster Cup (Eng-III). Back in California, Lady Argyle went to Bertrando three times. The first foal was a useful winner named Cal Bread, but the second mating produced a really good filly that brought \$130,000 as a 2-year-old. Named Queenie Belle, she raced for Gary Seidler with success, her wins including the Lady's Secret Breeders' Cup Handicap (gr. II) and the Princess Stakes (gr. II).

In partnership with Peter Vegso, Seidler bred Queenie Belle to Unbridled's Song and got another outstanding filly, Unrivala Belle, winner of the 2010 La Troienne Stakes (gr. II), beating Rachel Alexandra, and that year's Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic (gr. I).

Needless to say, Alexander was walking on air through most of 2010 as he watched Unrivala Belle take his little California family to the top.

In 1998, the year after Lady Argyle foaled Queenie Belle, she produced another filly by Bertrando, named Toe in the Water. She was unraced, and in the wake of Queenie Belle's success, sold in 2002 to Audley Farm for \$190,000 in foal to Elusive Quality. She produced the stakes-placed colt Wye, a 2004 colt by Gone West, and by 2010 Alexander was looking for someone to grab Toe in the Water's 2006 filly by Toccet, named Wardelle, who was running in claiming races on the East Coast.

Wardelle was claimed Oct. 23, 2012, then changed hands three more times until she landed in the stable of Peter Kazanias, who picked her up for \$10,000 in a six-furlong claimer at Penn National in May. Wardelle has won three races for her latest owner, and the victory in the Pink Ribbon Stakes was her 13th in 54 starts.

The cross that produced Wardelle has linebreeding that ties in with her grandmother Lady Argyle's unique 2x3 inbreeding to Fleet Nasrullah. Toccet's grandsire Deputy Minister goes back in female line to the mare Grass Shack, the granddam of Fleet Discovery. Toccet also has Nasrullah, Prince John, and Count Fleet, who are all tied up in Don B. and his sire Fleet Nasrullah.

This family has produced broodmares that have bred beyond expectations and several very good fillies in the process. Is it possible the inbreedings to Pretty Polly then Fleet Nasrullah, were instrumental in that class rise? **BH**

TOCCET, b, 2000	Awesome Again, 1994 12s, SW, \$4,374,590 868 f, 55 SW, 2.28 AEI	Deputy Minister, 1979 22s, SW, \$696,964 1,141 f, 90 SW, 2.53 AEI	Vice Regent
		Primal Force, 1987 8s, wnr, \$74,251 12 f, 6 r, 6 w, 2 SW	Mint Copy
	Cozzene's Angel, 1994 23s, wnr, \$72,420 10 f, 9 r, 6 w, 1 SW	Cozzene, 1980 24s, SW, \$978,152 964 f, 93 SW, 2.20 AEI	Blushing Groom
		Charming Pan, 1979 19s, wnr, \$47,782 9 f, 9 r, 6 w, 3 SW	Prime Prospect
WARDELLE b, m March 15, 2006	Bertrando, 1989 24s, SW, \$3,185,610 1,043 f, 58 SW, 1.35 AEI	Skywalker, 1982 20s, SW, \$2,226,750 533 f, 48 SW, 1.62 AEI	Caro
		Gentle Hands, 1979 12s, wnr, \$40,275 5 f, 4 r, 4 w, 1 SW	Ride the Trails
TOE IN THE WATER, b, 1998	Lady Argyle, 1987 Unraced 13 f, 9 r, 6 w, 2 SW	Don B., 1965 24s, SW, \$225,900 542 f, 35 SW, 1.46 AEI	Trepan
		Fleet Polly, 1969 25s, wnr, \$13,024 10 f, 8 r, 6 w, 1 SW	Charming Doll
			Relaunch
			Bold Captive
			Buffalo Lark
			Three Red Bells
			Fleet Nasrullah
			Early Frames
			Fleet Discovery
			Wardoura

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